

**DREDGE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE  
MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 26, 2005  
DES PEASE FIELD OFFICE**

The meeting was held on Thursday May 26, 2005 from 1:30 to 3:00 PM, at DES office, 50 International Drive, Pease Tradeport.

**Announcements/Introductions** - Chairman asked members to introduce themselves. Attendance list is attached.

**Review of Minutes** - (Meeting of April 7, 2005) There is one correction and it will be emailed to the members.

**Cocheco River Dredge** - *Results of probe testing:* COE (Mike Walsh) said their survey crew has been conducting probes to determine location of rock within the channel limits. He does not have the results because the survey is not complete. He expects to have them by the next meeting. - *Plans for next dredging season:* COE (Walsh) said the plans and specs. may be done by mid-June and, if so, the COE will put something out to contract by late July. The additional cost to the City of Dover will be around four million but a better estimate will be available when they are done with the survey. The rock will be disposed of at the upland containment facility. Discussion followed. NHF&G (Clare McBane) said they are concerned about the possibility of blasting of the rock and asked COE if they intend to use that method. COE (Walsh) said it is a possibility but if it were to become necessary the COE would open the discussion with the DMTF. F&G (McBane) said Bill Ingham of F&G asked if COE will meet with him this summer to discuss the COE's plans for the fall of 2005 and winter of 2006. COE (Walsh) said he will follow up on that meeting.

City of Dover (Steve Bird) asked if there is an opportunity to discuss steps to reduce the total cost of the dredging such as adjusting the channel or reducing the depth of dredging. COE (Walsh) said they would be open to adjusting the depth to suit the current usage. George's Marina, Dover (George Maglaras) thinks the issue that is driving the cost is the narrows and asked if the COE can be flexible enough to reduce the designated channel through those areas that have historically been 40' to 50' wide. COE (Walsh) said the upper narrows is only 30' wide currently and they plan to leave it at 30' with a depth of 7'. He continued by saying it would be a cost savings to reduce the proposed depth to 6' or 6 ½'. He will meet with PDA/PH (Tracy Shattuck, Harbormaster) and City of Dover (Bird) and George's Marina (Maglaras) to discuss and decide upon the reduction with input from user groups. EPA (Guza) asked what the cost savings will be for the City of Dover if the depth were reduced from 7' to 6' or 6 ½'. COE (Walsh) said the quantity that needs to be removed would be reduced by about a third so the savings would be substantial. EPA (Guza) said there is another benefit in reducing the amount that goes into the containment facility. The city can make money by selling the available space which would

offset the cost. DES (Ted Diers) stressed the importance of completing the project within the existing dredge window with a few weeks to spare for inclement weather. It cannot go to a third year and our Congressmen and others agree. COE (Walsh) said the way to get it done in a timely manner and to save money is to decrease the depth from 7' to 6' or 6 1/2'. DES (Diers) spoke about the added benefit of the widening process being the removal of some of the contaminants. DES (Mike Sills) asked how much of the \$4 million is for rock removal. COE (Walsh) was unable to state an actual dollar amount but agreed that about half is for disposal and half is for actual construction work. COE (Walsh) suggested a meeting date be set for a COE, City of Dover and George's Marina and PDA Harbormaster to discuss the depth issue. It is set for June 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM, Georges Marina, Dover.

### **UNH Pier: Rock Cribbing Disposal - *Disposal Cost analysis (Upland vs.***

*Offshore)* Chair spoke about the meeting in March 2005 between COE and UNH to discuss disposal of the cribbing. He asked UNH (Rich Rouleau) to speak. UNH (Rouleau) stated that Appledore Engineering did a cost analysis that found it to be less expensive to do offshore disposal because of the cost of trucking the material. UNH hopes it will not have to submit an amended application but rather have the offshore disposal be incorporated as a condition of the Wetlands permit. NMFS (Mike Johnson) said they did a survey dive to find an appropriate disposal site for the material. They found one called Cod Rock, which is 400' north of the pier. It is 28' to 30' deep at low tide and the bottom is primarily coarse sand with small cobble rock so it is an appropriate site. He suggests there be additional coordination with the US Coast Guard and local lobstermen's association to be sure it will not interfere with their operations or impact lobster traps. UNH (Rouleau) asked if the University should take the responsibility to contact the other stakeholders in the area and listed the entities that UNH would contact to include TF Moran, River Pilots. NH F&G (McBane) said John Nelson and Bruce Smith of F&G have some concerns and wanted to know why there are no studies on the infauna and no quantitative sampling of the epifauna. In addition they are still interested in having the rock disposed at Gunboat Shoals as was mentioned at the last meeting. They wanted to point out that juvenile lobsters like cobbled areas. NMFS (Johnson) said a lot of the bottom in that area was sandy or a veneer of sand over rock ledge and he feels the disposal of the material will not reduce the lobster habitat in the 100' by 200' rectangular area and not cause an adverse impact. He continued by saying Bruce Smith of F&G and Frank Richardson of DES were in agreement about the placement of the cribbing in the Cod Rock area as long as it would not adversely effect existing habitat. NHF&G (McBane) said most of the concerns were from John Nelson. She asked NMFS (Johnson) to call John Nelson regarding the placement of the material and the lack of studies. He agreed. Chair asked if UNH (Rouleau) has discussed the issue of an amendment with the Wetlands Bureau. UNH (Rouleau) said he did discuss it with DES Wetlands Bureau (Frank Richardson) and that Richardson doesn't see that as an issue. Chair recommends UNH (Rouleau) confirm that with DES (Richardson). Chair said he received an email from COE (Roach), which stated the COE would approve it if the NH Wetlands Bureau approved it as an amendment. DES (Diers) asked who would be contacting the Coast Guard and the Lobstermen Association. UNH (Rouleau) stated he would take the lead on it. He continued by voicing a few concerns about the project. He said F&G had a concern about the impact on the river bottom during the dredge window. He'd like clarification on that issue. He understands that the pile work will not be

restricted to the dredge window and that leaves the question of the removal of the existing cribs and rock. UNH Consultant's point is that removing rock from the cribs is not going to disturb the bottom. There is a structural gravel bed under the pier so they don't view it as a dredging issue. Per Mr. Rouleau, COE (Roach) suggested that they be restricted for doing the work between June and Sept. Assuming a permit is issued, they would want the timeframe and the restrictions to be made very clear. DES (Diers) asked what UNH's timeframe is. UNH (Rouleau) said the project couldn't go forward until the environmental assessment is complete and it is being held up. They hope to start at the end of 2005 so could potentially be doing removals during the normal dredge window but that is not sure. UNH would rather not have the time restriction in case they have to wait until spring to start.

**Sagamore Creek - Eelgrass issues-** COE (Mike Walsh) spoke about the meeting that took place on May 3, 2005 between the NMFS, EPA and UNH Fred Short. The discussion centered around what type of information is needed, i.e., a more detailed and accurate survey of the eelgrass in that area. COE is planning to accomplish that but can't do it until the growing season which will be August. Ground-truthing of photograph will be done as well. The discussion about possible areas for mitigation needs to continue because there will be loss of eelgrass habitat. **Channel realignment & encroachment issues.** COE(Walsh) has been directed by the COE District Engineer to realign the channel to avoid Witch Cove Marina which will increase the impact area of eelgrass. He continued by saying there will be a cost differential to move the channel and the responsible party has to be determined. Discussion followed. Chair asked what the next step should be. Eelgrass survey in August is first and second is to make a decision about realigning of the channel to see if the state of NH is interested in doing that. Discussion followed. Chair said the email from COE (Roach) indicated that he has not made any progress on this issue since the last meeting. Discussion followed. DES (Diers) asked if there will be a cost estimate (for realignment) done over the next few months. COE (Walsh) said the cost estimate will have to wait until they can determine where the eelgrass is and until there is a mitigation plan in place. Chair asked for additional comments.

**Other Business- Seabrook Section 227 Project** - Chair relayed written comments from COE (Mark Habel) who said the COE has remedied the problem of sand filling back into the anchorage. They excavated the area to modify and placed filter fabric in the area. COE (Habel) said the measures are working with no new sand moving through the revetment area. Chair hopes COE will have an update on this issue for the next meeting. Town of Seabrook (Suzanne Manzi) stated that COE (Habel) attended the Seabrook Selectmen's meeting and made a power point presentation. During the meeting the Town of Seabrook asked if the COE would be able to evaluate the damage inflicted during the northeast storm that was occurring at the time. According to Seabrook (Manzi), COE (Habel) said the COE would monitor it after the storm. Seabrook hopes that anything that comes up between now and September will be addressed by the COE. Seabrook (Manzi) wants to be assured that the monitoring program proceeds on schedule after the COE finishes in September 2005. She went on to say that UNH has stated they would be monitoring the clam flats between April '05 and August '05 and she wanted to know if that is in progress. UNH (Jon Scott) said that UNH has a contract to do monitoring at

Seabrook Harbor. They will install five tide gages next week and suspended sediment and current monitoring will be done until September. The reports will be submitted to the ACOE. Seabrook (Manzi) wants assurance that the Ports and Harbors monitoring requirement is met and that they submit reports to DES, as stipulated, twice a year. Discussion followed regarding aerial photo monitoring. Seabrook (Manzi) stated that the COE (Habel) said they were doing monthly fly-overs.

Chair asked if members want to see the COE (Habel) power point presentation on the project at the next meeting. Members are interested in the presentation and Chair will ask Mr. Hable to oblige.

***Section 107 & 227 Funding*** - Chair said COE has stated that there has been no change in the status of funding since the last time the committee met. DES/Coastal Program (Diers) said he has called the congressional delegation to ask what the status is and has not received an answer. He suggests the PDA/ Ports and Harbors send a letter to Senate offices. Political pressure is the only way it will be put into the federal budget. Manzi said Seabrook and Hampton are sending letters as well.

***Comprehensive (Upland) Dredge Spoil Disposal Study Update*** - Chair said the COE (Saji Varghese) is working on the study and said the site verification process is complete and that they hope to have the draft report by July 2005.

***Other items:*** Ted Diers asked members if they would like to see a presentation from a company who makes wave attenuation devices. All agreed. Diers will ask for the demonstration at the next meeting.

***Next meeting:*** is July 21, 2005, 1:30 PM – DES Pease Tradeport.

Adjourned 3:05 PM